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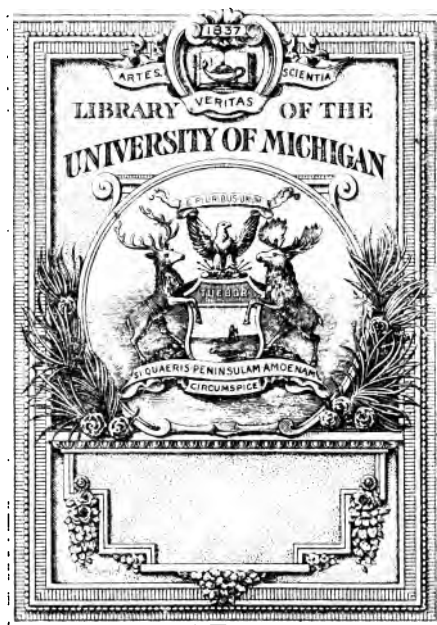
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Scott

A Cheap Library

Post

Univ. of Mich.







A CHEAP LIBRARY POST

BY

W. SCOTT, A. M.,

**Secretary of New England Education League
and Library Post Committee,**

WITH

**American and Foreign Correspondence, Editorials and Information respecting an effort to
secure such a post in the United States and Canada in 1899-1900 and continued.**



A GROUP OF LIBRARY HELPERS OF THE FUTURE.

The postman ranks among the social reformers. As he passes over land and sea, knowledge, commerce, charity, friendship, brotherhood go with him. He blazes a path through the wilderness and bears the torch of a better civilization over the earth. *Campbell.*

**THE PEOPLE,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
1901.**

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A CHEAP LIBRARY POST.*

119177

REPORT OF EFFORT MADE TO SECURE SUCH POST IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1899-1900 AND CONTINUED.

I cannot tell how soon it might be a question whether the mariner's compass or the art of printing had changed the condition of man more than a good system of postage. . . . Never was a simpler mechanism devised for working out great and good effects.

PALFREY. (1849.)

You enter upon one of the most important fields of action in the intercourse of nations. You are promoting an eminent work for their peace and their prosperity,

STEPHAN, at Postal Union Congress. (1874.)

Facilities for intercommunication take from human life its isolation and bind the race together in one family. Transcontinental railways, ocean steamship lines, submarine cables, international postal systems strengthen old and create new human ties. The social organism, the moral and spiritual unity of the race become more than the dream of poet or prophet. The postman thus ranks among the social reformers. As he passes over land and sea, knowledge, commerce, charity, friendship, brotherhood go with him. He blazes a path through the wilderness and bears the torch of a better civilization over the earth.

CAMPBELL.

The New England Education League, whose object is to promote more equal educational opportunities, so far as possible, for all New England, has regarded the library as an important educational agency and has advocated more equal library privileges wherever practicable. To secure house-to-house delivery of books in cities and large towns and to open central libraries to outlying areas on an equitable plan of library support, and by suitable carriage of library books, are believed to be in the interest of libraries and education, and contributory to social progress which both library and school are designed to advance.

The postal system, which is a universal carrier, may be a most effective agent in strengthening the circulatory side of libraries. If post office and library coöperate, the house-to-house delivery of books in cities and large towns and the extension of library privileges to non-library communities seem easy of accomplishment.

This subject was brought to the attention of the Anna Ticknor Library of Boston, Mass., early in 1899 by the Secretary of the New England Education League, in the hope that said library might organize a movement for a library post at minimum cost rates. The work of this library has been to promote home study by furnishing books, photographs, etc., and instruction for students at a distance, but it has found the high postal rates for books a barrier to its work.

* June 29, 1886, Rev. Norman Fox (now Mayor of Morristown, N. J.), of New York City wrote a letter to the *New York Evening Post*, recommending that libraries be allowed to send out their books and receive them again as second-class matter for one cent a pound, and that the American Library Association take up the matter. This suggestion was acted on at the A. L. A. meeting held at Milwaukee, in July, 1886, when resolutions were adopted recommending such legislation by Congress, and a committee of five, Messrs. W. F. Poole, A. R. Spofford, Mellen Chamberlain, W. T. Peeples, and F. M. Crunden, were appointed. At their suggestion a bill to such effect was presented in the House of Representatives on January 4, 1887.



Later in the year Mr. W. C. Lane, librarian of Harvard University and President of the American Library Association for 1898-1899, invited the New England Education League to submit a paper on the subject of a library post, at the annual meeting of the association, at Atlanta, Ga., on May 11, 1899. A paper was accordingly presented, entitled "A Library Post at Cent or Cost Rates." The paper was printed in full in the *Boston Transcript* of May 13, 1899, and a synopsis was given in the report of the proceedings in the *Library Journal* of New York City for July, 1899, pages 134, 135. The paper advocated a library post on the following grounds: Postal and library economy, education, civic equality of library advantages and social welfare, as promoted by the



A GROUP OF LIBRARY HELPERS OF THE FUTURE.

utmost possible diffusion of good books. Many favorable opinions on a cheap library post from American and foreign sources were quoted in the paper.

The association appointed a committee, consisting of A. H. Chase, State Librarian, Concord, N. H.; Dr. J. K. Hosmer, Public Library, Minneapolis, Minn.; Miss Olive L. Jones, Ohio State University, Columbus, O., which co-operated during the year with the Library Post Committee (page 6), and submitted a favorable report at the Montreal meeting of the A. L. Association in 1900.

Prior to the Atlanta meeting the New England Education League submitted the following statement and communication to a large number of persons in the United States and to representatives of Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Holland, Belgium and Switzerland, in order to collate information and opinions on the subject of a library post:

MEMORANDUM ON LIBRARIES AND POST OFFICE.

ADMISSION OF PUBLIC AND INCORPORATED LIBRARIES AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER, ONE CENT PER POUND—STATEMENT OF REASONS.

1. It is in harmony with the spirit of the postal laws to diffuse good reading and to promote the circulation of literary, scientific and other publications which tend to public enlightenment. The public library is a leading agency in this line. Both library and post office should work together.

2. The spread of library advantages is intimately connected with popular



education, which the general, state and local governments have from the first promoted in a liberal manner and in many ways.

3. The people who maintain public libraries mostly under state laws and by direct taxation are the same who maintain the postal system under national laws. By thus using the postal system they simply become their own carriers and grant to themselves the same privileges which they give to private publishers.

4. Matter now carried at second postage or, in certain cases, carried free, is not supposed to have a superior, if it has an equal, claim to such rating compared with the public library which has so direct a bearing on the public welfare as to justify a tax for its support.

5. Such provision will promote the circulation of books everywhere, especially in regions where no libraries exist, as well as at library centres, to a greater degree than can otherwise be secured. It will tend to the founding of more public libraries and to develop a library system which shall reach every family and individual.

6. If for economic reasons it is necessary, a shorter carriage might be granted, as for example, 100 or 200 miles, thus giving access over a considerable area to central libraries.

7. This modification of postal laws would put in right relations two important public interests, the post office and the public library, which in the past have been unrelated, to the detriment of libraries and, possibly, to the pecuniary loss of the post office.

Dear Sir:—Your attention is respectfully asked to the inclosed memorandum and your views thereon are solicited.

Public libraries have generally been started by towns and cities with some help from the state. They are usually local. Many think the local idea will in time be modified by a larger unit of administration and support, by creating comprehensive library districts, by making cities or central libraries serve a larger area, with proper system of branches and deliveries, or similar methods.

By using the post office system for distribution and the readjustment of library administration somewhat, it seems each post office might be like a branch library, and to get a book from the public library would be as easy as to get a letter from the mail.

Users of libraries will appreciate the need of improving present conditions of circulation of books. Many localities can scarcely hope to have library advantages unless by better distribution from central libraries. More than half the towns of Connecticut and Vermont, for example, have no public or free library. The same is the case in many parts of our country.

Some libraries founded by philanthropists or associations are not local, but admit to use of books persons at a distance. In such cases present mail rates are so large as to be prohibitive. By giving to public and incorporated libraries the rates given to publishers, namely, one cent per pound, the circulation of such libraries would be much facilitated.

Any views or suggestions from you will be highly valued.

Signed,

Secretary.

Replies were received at the time and in later correspondence from the following persons. Some of the replies have been printed in various papers and their general character alone will be here noted. Where no note is given the letter was favorable.



- Miss M. E. Ahern, Editor of *Public Libraries*, Chicago, Ill.
- M. Anagnos, Perkins Institution for the Blind, Boston, Mass.
- E. H. Anderson, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Penn.
- President E. Benjamin Andrews, Nebraska University, Lincoln, Neb.
- President J. B. Angell, Michigan University, Ann Arbor, Mich.
- G. H. Baker, Ex-Librarian, Columbia University, New York City.
- Henry Baldwin, Custodian of American History, New Haven, Conn.
- T. M. Balliet, Superintendent of Schools, Springfield, Mass., suggests that an effort to improve Sunday-school libraries would be of much value.
- C. F. P. Bancroft, LL. D., Phillips-Andover Academy, Andover, Mass.
- Charles G. Beale, Lord Mayor of Birmingham, England, describes the system of central and branch libraries in that city.
- William Beer, Fisk Free and Public Library, New Orleans, La.
- J. S. Billings, New York Public Library, favors carrying books, except fiction, 150 miles.
- President F. W. Boatwright, Richmond College, Richmond, Va.
- A. E. Bostwick, Brooklyn (N. Y.) Public Library.
- Sir J. G. Bourinot, Honorary Secretary of Royal Society of Canada, Ottawa, Can.
- Mrs. Sarah R. Bolton, Cleveland, Ohio.
- G. F. Bowerman, Librarian of New York *Tribune*.
- R. B. Bowker, Editor of *Library Journal*, etc., favors transportation of books at not less than actual cost, advocates parcel post.
- J. Newton Breed (adult blind), Somerville, Mass., urges cheap postage for books for the blind.
- President Nathaniel Butler, Colby College, Waterville, Me.
- W. H. Brett, Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio, favors cheap postage on inter-library loans.
- Dr. J. H. Canfield, Librarian of Columbia University, New York City.
- E. A. Carleton, State Supt. of Public Instruction, Helena, Mon.
- H. J. Carr, Public Library, Scranton, Penn. "Does not meet my unqualified approval."
- S. D. Carver, State Library, Augusta, Me.
- W. S. Chaplin, Chancellor, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.
- A. H. Chase, State Library, Concord, N. H.
- G. T. Clark, Free Public Library, San Francisco, Cal. "The matter is certainly worthy of consideration."
- Miss E. E. Clarke, Librarian, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt.
- V. Lansing Collins, Reference Library, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.
- E. H. Clement, Boston, Mass.
- J. L. Cowles, Farmington, Conn.
- President W. B. Craig, Drake University, Des Moines, Ia.
- F. M. Crunden, Public Library, St. Louis, Mo.
- G. F. Danforth, Library, University of Indiana, Bloomington, Ind.
- J. F. Davies, Free Public Library, Butte, Mon.
- Miss C. E. Dennis, City Library, Lincoln, Neb.
- Hon. C. M. Depew, New York City.
- Melvil Dewey, State Library, Albany, N. Y.
- Mrs. Z. A. Dixon, Library, University of Chicago.
- C. W. Ernst, Boston, Mass.
- Principal H. B. Frissell, Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va.
- F. P. Furlong, P. M., Hartford, Conn.
- Miss Mary P. Gould, Library, Berea College, Berea, Ky.
- President J. T. Goucher, The Woman's College of Baltimore.
- Dr. S. A. Green, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Mass.
- S. H. Greene, D. D., Washington, D. C.
- J. G. Gregory, Milwaukee, Wis.
- T. S. Hamlin, D. D., Washington, D. C.
- J. L. Harrison, Athenæum, Providence, R. I.
- J. D. Herr, D. D., Norwich, Conn.
- Miss C. M. Hewins, Public Library, Hartford, Conn.
- T. L. Hicks, P. M., Philadelphia, Penn. "I do not see my way clear . . . to give my endorsement to your proposition."
- Hon. F. A. Hill, State Secretary of Education, Boston, Mass., favors discussion and a trial on a small scale, if possible; favor free library post for the blind.
- Hon. C. D. Hine, State Secretary of Education, Hartford, Conn.
- Hon. G. F. Hoar, U. S. Senate.
- H. D. Holton, M. D., Brattleboro, Vt.
- J. K. Hosmer, Public Library, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Mrs. L. E. Howey, State Library, Helena, Mon.
- Ray Greene Huling, Ph. D., Cambridge, Mass.
- Rev. G. A. Jackson, General Theological Library, Boston, Mass.
- Hon. T. L. James, Ex-Postmaster General, New York City.
- Morris Jastrow, Jr., Librarian University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Penn.
- W. E. Jillson, Doane Library, Crete, Neb.
- Miss Olive Jones, Librarian, Ohio State University Library, Columbus, O.
- Horace Kephart, Mercantile Library, St. Louis, Mo.
- Hon. H. M. Knowlton, Attorney General of Massachusetts, Boston, Mass.
- H. L. Koopman, Library of Brown University, Providence, R. I.



- Hon. W. S. Knox, M. C., Washington, D. C.
 Hon. Philip Lawrence, Assistant Secretary of State, Pierre, So. Dak.
 A. G. Lawson, D. D., Camden, N. J.
 Minister Lichterveld, of Belgium, Washington, D. C., says Belgian library privileges are inferior to the American.
 Miss Katharine P. Loring, Anna Ticknor Library, Boston, Mass.
 President Seth Low, Columbia University, New York City.
 S. B. Lovejoy, P. M., Minneapolis, Minn.
 H. W. Mabie, New York City.
 Hon. S. W. McCall, M. C., Washington, D. C.
 President G. E. MacLean, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Ia.
 Miss E. M. McLoney, Public Library, Des Moines, Ia.
 Miss Jessie McMillan, Athenæum, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Rev. W. F. Markwick, Library, Ansonia, Conn.
 Hon. Alpha Messer, Rochester, Vt.
 President W. A. Mowry, Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute, Hyde Park, Mass.
 R. Heber Newton, D. D., New York City.
 E. J. Nolan, Academy of Sciences, Philadelphia, Penn., favors except for carrying works of fiction.
 Miss M. O. Nutting, Library, Mt. Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass.
 W. T. Peeples, Mercantile Library, New York City.
 Governor H. S. Pingree, Detroit, Mich.
 Bishop H. C. Potter, New York City.
 J. B. Pioda, Minister of Switzerland, Washington, D. C.
 F. B. Pratt, Secretary of Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 J. T. Prince, State Inspector of Schools, West Newton, Mass.
 President J. H. Rankin, Howard University, Washington, D. C.
 President A. V. V. Raymond, Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.
 Governor T. R. Rogers, Olympia, Wash.
 E. C. Richardson, Library, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.
 Governor F. W. Rollins, Concord, N. H.
 G. E. Ross-Lewin, P. M., Denver, Col.
 J. C. Rowell, Library, University of California, Berkeley, Cal.
 Miss K. L. Sharp, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.
 Irwin Shepard, Secretary of National Teachers' Association, Winona, Minn.
 W. R. Snead, Louisville, Ky.
 J. W. Southall, State Supt. of Public Instruction, Richmond, Va.
 M. S. Stone, State Secretary of Education, Montpelier, Vt.
 George Stockwell, Athenæum, Westfield, Mass., favors carriage for 150 to 200 miles.
 T. B. Stockwell, State Commissioner of Public Schools, Providence, R. I., thinks it "worthy of consideration."
 Hon. W. A. Strong, Mayor of Portland, Ore.
 The Swiss Legation, Washington, D. C., states that in Switzerland matter from libraries up to two kilograms is carried for 15 centimes both ways.
 Nelson Taylor (Baker-Taylor Co.), New York City.
 President C. E. Taylor, Wake Forest College, Wake Forest, N. C.
 R. G. Thwaites, President A. L. A., 1899, 1900, Madison, Wis.
 John Thomson, Free Library, Philadelphia, Penn.
 President C. F. Thwing, Adelbert College, Cleveland, Ohio.
 Hon. B. R. Tillman, Trenton, S. C.
 Rev. J. H. Twichell, Hartford, Conn.
 J. H. Tyner, Assistant Attorney General for Post Office Department, Washington, D. C., writes on financial aspects of question unfavorably.
 P. R. Uhler, Peabody Institute, Baltimore, Md.
 H. M. Utley, Public Library, Detroit, Mich.
 Hon. W. F. Vilas, Ex-Postmaster General, Madison, Wis.
 Bishop J. H. Vincent, Topeka, Kan.
 Hon. J. H. Walker, Worcester, Mass.
 Miss Anne Wallace, Carnegie Library, Atlanta, Ga.
 Hon. John Wanamaker, Ex-Postmaster General, Philadelphia, Penn.
 Miss Irene Warren, Librarian, Chicago Institute, Chicago, Ill.
 H. C. Wellman, Public Library, Brookline, Mass.
 Hon. G. de Weckherlin, Minister of the Netherlands, Washington, D. C., states that by parcel post and rural delivery, books may go everywhere in the Netherlands at low rates.
 G. F. Weston, Manual Training School, Providence, R. I.
 E. H. Whitehall, Secretary of American Institute of Instruction.
 President G. T. Winston, University of Texas, Austin, Tex.
 B. L. Whitman, D. D., Philadelphia, Penn.
 Governor Roger Wolcott, Boston, Mass., "has strong belief in the necessity of furnishing to all our citizens the benefit of the free circulation of books."
 President N. E. Wood, Newton Theological Institution, Newton Centre, Mass., and others.

Encouraged by the general unanimity of the views expressed and by the facts brought out in the correspondence and other inquiries, a committee



and council were formed to continue the effort to promote better relations between the postal and library systems of the United States.

The committee and council follow:

CHEAP LIBRARY POST.

Object. To secure for books from Public and Incorporated Libraries second-class postal rates, one cent a pound (now granted to newspapers, magazines, and paper-covered serial books), or cost rates.

COMMITTEE.

New England Education League.
 A. H. Chase, State Library, Concord, N. H.
 Rev. G. A. Jackson, Gen. Theo. Library, Boston, Mass.
 J. L. Whitney, Boston Public Library.
 Miss K. P. Loring, Anna Ticknor Library, Boston, Mass.
 W. C. Lane, Harvard University Library.
 J. L. Harrison, Providence (R. I.) Athenæum.
 W. T. Peeples, Mercantile Library, New York City.
 Miss Olive Jones, University of Ohio Library, Columbus, Ohio.
 F. M. Crunden, Public Library, St. Louis, Mo.
 Horace Kephart, Mercantile Library, St. Louis, Mo.
 Miss E. M. McLoney, Public Library, Des Moines, Ia.
 J. F. Davies, Public Library, Butte, Mon.
 J. C. Rowell, University of California Library, Berkeley, Cal.
 Miss Anne Wallace, Carnegie Library, Atlanta, Ga.
 William Beer, Public Library, New Orleans, La.
 W. SCOTT, Secretary, 10 Hollis Street, Cambridge, Mass.
 RAY GREENE HULING, Treasurer, 101 Trowbridge Street, Cambridge, Mass.

COUNCIL.

Alabama.	Missouri.
Alaska Ter., Hon. Sheldon Jackson, Sitka, Alaska.	Montana, Mrs. L. E. Howey, Helena, Montana.
Arizona Ter.	Nebraska, Miss C. E. Dennis, Lincoln, Nebraska.
Arkansas.	Nevada.
California.	New Hampshire, Miss F. E. Whitcher, Manchester, N. H.
Colorado.	New Jersey, V. L. Collins, Princeton University.
Connecticut, Miss C. M. Hewins, Hartford, Conn.	Hon. Norman Fox, Morristown, N. J.
Delaware.	New Mexico Ter.
District of Columbia, J. H. Rankin, D. D., Howard University.	New York, G. F. Bowerman, New York Tribune.
Florida.	J. H. Canfield, Columbia University.
Georgia, Prof. J. H. T. McPherson, University of Georgia.	R. Heber Newton, D. D., New York City.
Idaho.	Mrs. M. E. Craigie, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Illinois, Miss M. E. Ahern, Chicago, Ill.	North Carolina, Hon. M. D. Sherrill, Raleigh, N. C.
Indian Ter.	North Dakota.
Indiana.	Ohio, Pres. C. F. Thwing, Cleveland, Ohio.
Iowa, Pres. G. E. MacLean, Univ. of Iowa.	Oklahoma Ter.
Hon. Henry Sabin, Des Moines, Ia.	Oregon.
Kansas, John MacDonald, Topeka, Kan.	Pennsylvania, Morris Jastrow, Jr., University of Pennsylvania.
Kentucky, W. N. Snead, Louisville, Ky.	B. L. Whitman, D. D., Philadelphia.
Louisiana.	Rhode Island.
Maine.	South Carolina.
Maryland.	
Massachusetts, E. H. Clement, Boston, Mass.	
H. C. Wellman, Brookline, Mass.	
Michigan.	
Minnesota, Prof. D. L. Kiehle, University of Minnesota.	
Mississippi.	



South Dakota.
Tennessee.
Texas.
Utah.
Vermont.
Virginia.

Washington.
West Virginia.
Wisconsin, R. G. Thwaites, Madison, Wis.
J. G. Gregory, Milwaukee, Wis.
Wyoming.

Among the questions considered by this body were the following:

1. Who shall be requested to introduce a library post bill in Congress?
2. Shall limited or unlimited carriage of library books be asked for?

In the discussion some favored library carriage for a certain distance in miles; others library carriage within state limits; still others natural or unlimited carriage.

After deliberation continuing for several months, the following postal bill was framed and, upon request, introduced in the United States Senate by Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge and in the House by Hon. G. P. Lawrence:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JANUARY 27, 1900.

Mr. Lawrence introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads and ordered to be printed.

A BILL TO ESTABLISH A LIBRARY POST.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, subject to such regulations as the Postmaster-General may from time to time determine, books and other printed matter belonging to and passing from and to any of the libraries enumerated below be, and are hereby, admitted to carriage by the mail at one cent per pound or fraction thereof, namely:

Public libraries maintained wholly or in part by taxation, by towns, cities, states, or other political units, or by the United States.

School libraries supported by taxation, or having tax exemptions, belonging to educational institutions of all grades.

Society or social libraries having entire or partial tax exemption, or other public privileges maintained by endowment or taxation, or from both sources, by religious, literary, professional, trade, industrial, or library associations.

SEC. 2. That this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Many persons in different parts of the country, interested in the movement, wrote to or interviewed their senators or representatives. Eight members of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads expressed their approval of the bill.

Various representative bodies passed resolutions approving the bill as follows:

The Massachusetts Teachers' Association adopted the following:

WHEREAS, a movement for a cheap library post has been undertaken by persons interested in library and educational progress whereby library books from public and incorporated libraries may go by mail at second-class rates, one cent a pound, or at cost;

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Teachers' Association hereby expresses its sympathy with said movement, believing that it will make libraries more accessible, both in cities and for non-library towns, by securing connection with central libraries by a delivery system, and that it will bring into better



relations the postal and library systems of the United States, with advantage to both and to the whole people; that a copy of this resolution be sent to the United States senators and representatives of Massachusetts, with a request for their active support of amendment of postal laws as above stated.

Resolutions were also passed by the Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Universalist conferences of Boston; the Ansonia, Conn., Library; the Detroit, Mich., Library Board; the California State Library Association; the Indiana State Library Association; the Montana State Teachers' Association; the Ohio State Library Association; Columbus, O., Library Club; New Hampshire Association of Academy Teachers, and others.

Many newspapers and periodicals referred favorably to the movement in editorial or otherwise; among them were the *Boston Transcript*, *Boston Beacon*, *Education* (Boston), the *Camden, N. J., Outlook*, the *Evening Bulletin*, Providence, R. I.; the *Evening Post*, New York; the *Toledo Blade*, Toledo, O.; the *Evening Wisconsin*; the *Minneapolis Tribune*; *Public Libraries*, Chicago, Ill.; *Anaconda Standard*, Butte, Mon.; the *San Francisco Call*; the *Oakland, Cal., Enquirer*, and others.

Some extracts from editorials follow:

The Boston, Mass., *Transcript*: A cheap book post or local relation between the library and postal systems of our leading cities and towns, referred to in another column, is a matter of growing importance. It is advocated by many experts in library and post office affairs and by leading people in education and business life. The better adjustment of these two public interests seems the more necessary because both have now grown to immense proportions.

Notwithstanding the zeal and energy of librarians and library directors, one of the weakest points of libraries is found in the limited circulation of books. Mr. Tilden in his noble will provided for a house-to-house delivery in New York City, but the will, for various reasons, was rendered to a large extent inoperative. Some cities, like Boston, Chicago and others, have multiplied branches and delivery stations, which help in bringing the book and the reader together. But in the postal system the people have a universal carrier, which, with adjusted rates, may promote the circulation of books to an extent hitherto impossible.

Other agencies to diffuse the printed page have arisen since the beginning of public libraries. Newspapers, magazines and low-priced books flow from the presses in enormous streams. Some have thought the public library is thus rendered needless. The general opinion, however, regards both these public and private agencies as beneficial. In the celerity and area of circulation the public library has much to learn from the great daily and the magazine. Weakness in circulation means that the library fails to reach its opportunity in diffusing knowledge and wholesome recreation, in quickening the popular intellect and as an uplifting social influence. The career of yellow journalism shows how printed matter, inferior and demoralizing, has worked harm by using with energy and intelligence the postal, express and railway systems now at hand. Two causes have operated against the library—it has been too local in support and use and has lacked a carrier system for cheap and quick delivery of books. Under present conditions both of these causes may be much lessened or removed.

It will surprise some who have not given attention to the subject, that a cheap book post has not been effected. But, as has been said, the public library is comparatively a newcomer, especially in its present and prospective magnitude. Still further, libraries are maintained by civic units as towns,



cities, states or voluntary associations, or schools, while the postal system is conducted by the federal government. Besides private interest is usually quicker to move than public enterprise, hence private and corporate interests have secured far better postal rates than the library. The great distances to be covered in this country by a postal system have also complicated all postal matters, for while Great Britain, a few years ago, had a postal station, on an average, for every eight square miles, Switzerland for every five square miles, Germany for every fifteen square miles, Holland for every ten square miles, the average area in the United States was at the same time eighty-three square miles.

The objection that an annual deficit is incurred for second-class matter is entitled to some weight, but it may be said on the other hand that this deficit is likely to be diminished, if not removed, by a very largely increased use of the mails. The short book carriage, such as is needed in urban centres and thickly settled sections of the country, to connect persons with strong central libraries, cannot be expensive to the service, and may yield a revenue to the post office.

Some remarkable examples of cheap postage are recorded in the history of the post offices. In 1680, in London and suburbs, William Dockwra carried, registered and insured for a penny letters and parcels up to a pound in weight and £10 in value. Early in the next century, Charles Povey conducted a similar enterprise. Still later, Peter Williamson, in Edinburgh, Scotland, introduced a local penny post, with hourly deliveries. These were all stopped and absorbed by the government. Similar efforts in this country have been discontinued by public authority, but without achieving the desideratum of a very cheap short carriage for books. Some years ago Rev. Horatio Stebins of San Francisco advocated a transcontinental line of railway, claiming that the railway was a moral reformer, because it would connect the immigrant to the Pacific coast more closely with his early home and friends and the better ordered life of the East. The force of the argument is everywhere conceded. The cheap post and the public library are also social reformers. What ever renders them more effective deserves public attention and support.

The San Francisco *Call*: The *Call* has repeatedly pointed out the many advantages which have followed the adoption of the travelling library system in New York and other Eastern States. The plan now proposed in New England would supplement that system and would serve an even wider field of readers. It would give to every citizen within reach of a post office a fair opportunity to profit by the libraries maintained at public expense or supported by endowments from private munificence. It would be, in fact, a public benefit which would cost the national government little or nothing, and might, indeed, prove remunerative to the post office.

The Oakland (Cal.) *Enquirer*: In many of the commonwealths there are state laws governing the library system, as there are in California, and it seems desirable, in this age of enlightenment, that every citizen of California should be put in a position where he can get the benefit of the use of books the same as if he lived in a city. The greatest obstacle which now stands in the way is the high rate of charge for the transmission of books through the mail, and this would be removed if public and incorporated libraries were permitted to transmit books as second-class matter, the rate for which is one cent per pound. If they enjoyed this rate ordinary books could be sent back and forth at a cost of not more than one to three cents, and the increased use of the best books would be enormous.



The *Library Journal*, New York City: The proposed library post bill is printed elsewhere and seems to have the general support of the library profession, although there is much diversity of opinion regarding it. There is a general feeling that libraries as disseminators of literature are entitled to be ranked with newspapers as to postal facilities, and that the quality of the literature which they supply is certainly better than the average supplied by the newspaper press, particularly when the "yellow journals" are counted in. The original plan for a library post included many details which provoked severe criticism, but the present bill has the merit of extreme simplicity.

The *Evening Bulletin*, Providence, R. I.: The bill introduced into Congress to establish a library post is an admirable one. It contemplates the carriage of books or other printed matter to and from libraries which have tax support or tax exemption at the rate of one cent a pound. This would enable those institutions to extend the sphere of their usefulness very greatly in sparsely settled communities, would permit house-to-house delivery in cities and facilitate library extension in many places where books are scarce. The educational influence of the plan is obvious. Nor is it likely that the postal revenues would be diminished by it. On the contrary they would doubtless be increased. This has always been the result of reduced rates of postage. Such a measure as this may have little chance among less useful schemes, but the whole nation would be benefited if it were passed.

The *Evening Wisconsin*, Milwaukee, Wis.: The library post bill introduced by Senator Lodge and Representative Lawrence in the respective houses of Congress, is the subject of a hearing to-day before the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads. Such a measure as that which is under contemplation would incalculably enlarge the practical usefulness of every public and semi-public collection of books. It is the hope of those who favor the measure that its results will prove so obviously beneficial as to stimulate further experiments, with the ultimate object of establishing "the universal library, when the reader or student everywhere shall have access to the library wealth of the world."

The *Tribune*, Minneapolis, Minn.: The idea seems both sensible and feasible, more far reaching and easier to carry out than that of the travelling library. It would make the library as well as the postal system belong to the whole people, and at a small cost render the best books accessible to all. We wish the movement speedy and entire success.

The *Outlook*, Camden, N. J.: It is a good bill to pass and will be of the greatest service to students, editors and professional men all over the land. The famous libraries in the city of Boston might, under this bill, put their great treasures throughout New England at least, at a comparatively slight expense and to the great enriching of the townspeople in the distant places. It would be of no small benefit to the three libraries in the city of Camden. Let all those, therefore, who are interested in such a measure write to Congressman Loudenslager to urge his coöperation in its passage.

Among the letters received were the following:

Hon. E. F. Loud, M. C., from California, Chairman of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 1, 1900.

I am in receipt of yours of the 27th ultimo, containing copy of a letter from Mr. Anagnos, and in reply will say, the same shall be submitted to the com-



mittee having the matter in charge. As I have said before to some of your people, you have as much, or greater, equity than much matter that is now included in the second class, yet laboring as I am to curtail the privileges that now exist, I cannot see my way clear to advocate the measure you suggest.

Very truly yours,

E. F. LOUD.

To Secretary of Library Post.

Copy of Mr. Loud's letter to Mr. J. C. Rowell, Librarian, University of California:

I am in receipt of yours in relation to proposal to place library books as second-class mail matter, and in reply will say that some years of my life have been devoted to curtailing the privilege already extended to newspapers, and I am free to say I would prefer to see second-class privileges curtailed rather than extended, yet if privileges are to remain as they are, I know of no reason why library books should not be included; in fact, I think they are more entitled to admission than much of the matter that is now accepted. At this time, however, I cannot promise you that I shall work heartily for the success of your movement.

Very truly yours,

E. F. LOUD.

San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 16, 1899.

Hon. Charles Emory Smith, Postmaster-General, writes:

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 2, 1900.

My Dear Dr. Raymond:

I have your letter respecting the Library Post bill. I am not certain that the second-class postal rates ought to be opened to another kind of service until we get rid of the abuses which make that class, at the present time, so very great a burden upon the government. The matter is receiving consideration and is approached with full appreciation of the merit and public advantage of this particular suggestion, and with the full desire to reconcile it, if possible, with other needs.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES EMORY SMITH,
Postmaster-General.

Dr. A. V. V. Raymond, Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.

The following are from ex-Postmasters-General James, Vilas and Wana-maker:

Hon. T. L. James, New York City:

"I will say, although I have not given the subject very great consideration, that the scheme is a wise one. Certainly, if the government can afford to carry newspapers and periodicals at a loss, for the sake of disseminating intelligence, it can carry books for libraries without great additional loss. I have always been in favor of any legitimate and worthy coöperation on the part of the government for the dissemination of intelligence among the people."

Hon. W. F. Vilas, Madison, Wis.:

"I beg to say that so far as admission of library books to the mails as second-class matter is concerned, no one can deem it less worthy than the other uses to which the mails are devoted at the nominal rates of one cent per pound,



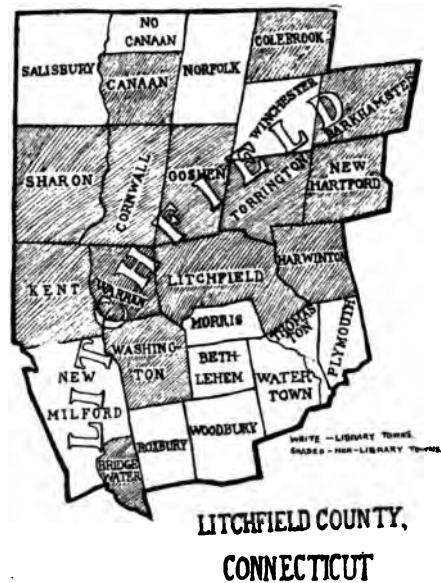
while, unlike much of the second-class matter now carried, there would be no fraud or pretext in its character. The postal service has been the packhorse of special interest of a private nature at the general cost; why should it not carry for educational advancement?"

Hon. John Wanamaker, Philadelphia:

"If personally I have any influence I shall be glad to exert it in favor of amending the postal laws to aid in the enlargement of public free libraries."

A few representative letters from different parts of the United States are submitted:

THE EAST.



A. H. Chase, State Librarian, Concord, N. H.:

"I am in entire sympathy with the movement outlined. We now loan books quite largely around the state from this library sending them by express. Were it possible to send them by mail at one cent a pound, we should have our hands full to keep up with the demand, and this is just what we wish to see. Anything I can do to help this matter along I shall be very glad to do."

Governor F. W. Rollins, Concord, N. H.:

"I should think it would be a great advantage to users of books and to the people generally to carry out the scheme of postal delivery. . . . I apprehend the tendency in our postal laws will be toward greater latitude in this direction."

Hon. M. S. Stone, State Secretary of Education, Montpelier, Vt.:

"*Most heartily* do I indorse the memorandum on libraries and post office."



Rev. G. A. Jackson, General Theological Library, Boston, Mass.:

"Our library is in the heartiest sympathy with the movement to obtain better postal rates for library books. I shall not need to assure you of it when you know we are just now inaugurating a movement by which our books are to go out to ministers all over the state. . . . The express rates are high, and act as something of a brake upon the working of our plan, so that we shall hold up both hands in favor of the request upon the postal department."

Miss Katharine P. Loring, Anna Ticknor Library Association, Boston, Mass.:

"I approve personally and in the name of our Library Association of the effort to secure cheaper rates for mailing library books and I am glad to join in the effort to secure them."

E. H. Clement, Boston, Mass.:

"I hope the movement for introducing the postal service into the distribution of public library matter will be the forerunner of a more enlightened and progressive general policy in postal affairs, such as will make it what it ought to be—the greatest instrumentality for education and social progress in the country."

Hon. H. M. Knowlton, Attorney-General of Massachusetts, Boston, Mass.:

"I have given some attention to the proposition for a Library Post and am heartily in favor of it. . . . In our own state there are 300 or 400 public libraries, largely duplicates. If books could be made interchangeable a much larger diversity would be possible and the distribution of books would be very much forwarded."

Hon. J. H. Walker, ex-United States Representative, Worcester, Mass.:

"I am of the opinion that books from libraries within a radius, say, of one hundred miles, should be sent and returned at the very lowest rate charged upon any matter that is distributed through the mail."

H. C. Wellman, Public Library, Brookline, Mass.:

"The problem of distributing books from public libraries is assuming rapidly increasing importance, and this plan offers an effective and economical solution."

Dr. Ray Greene Huling, Cambridge, Mass.:

"The points that it is for the interest of general education that public libraries should be able to extend their range of service through the use of the mails, and that the rate of postage granted to second-class matter would facilitate such distribution, are in my judgment well taken."

Miss C. M. Hewins, Public Library, Hartford, Conn.:

"I am entirely in favor of the reduced rate of postage suggested."

Hon. C. D. Hine, State Secretary of Education, Hartford, Conn.:

"A plan which can be begun and I think ultimately put into complete operation."

A. E. Bostwick, Public Library, Brooklyn, N. Y.:

"It seems to me the matter is a practical one, and one that would be greatly for the advantage of the public."

Bishop H. C. Potter, New York City:

"It seems to me along timely and helpful lines."

R. Heber Newton, D. D., New York City, the originator of a circulating clerical library, says:

"The utilization of the mails in the interest of public libraries thoroughly recommends itself to me as simple and feasible and manifestly helpful to the scattered portions of the country. I do not see why, by the mails and telephone together, in a few years, each state should not be able to use one great public library for all its people."

George Iles, New York City (a promoter of library work):

"I am in sympathy with the endeavor to have the postage on books reduced."

V. Lansing Collins, Reference Library, Princeton University:

"I sincerely hope that the efforts already put forth may be continued and brought to a successful consummation. I shall be glad to do what I can to further the project."

E. H. Anderson, Carnegie Library, Pittsburg, Pa.:

"I have long thought it would be a good thing for the educational interests of this country if we had a cheap book post."

THE SOUTH.

Principal H. B. Frissell, Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va.:

"I believe this would be of especial value in the South, where public libraries in the country are almost unknown, and I am confident that it would be of very great help to educational institutions such as this, where we are introducing the travelling libraries for the benefit of our graduates who are teaching in the rural communities of Virginia and other Southern States, and who not only have the greatest difficulty in procuring proper text-books and school appliances, but who have practically no reference books for study, and no good literature to offer their children."

J. W. Southall, State Superintendent of Schools, Richmond, Va.:

"I shall be glad to contribute all the aid I can summon for the consummation of so laudable an enterprise. Here in Virginia we have very few public

libraries; but a bill providing for the establishing of such libraries in the cities and towns of the commonwealth is now before the General Assembly. The passage of the cheap post bill would put the books of such libraries in reach of persons living in communities that have no libraries."

SEABOARD AIR LINE FREE TRAVELLING LIBRARY SYSTEM.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.

John T. Patrick,
Chief Industrial Agent.

Mrs. Eugene B. Heard,
Gen'l Superintendent.

"ROSE HILL," MIDDLETON, GA., August 23, 1900.

My Dear Sir: In reply to your letter of inquiries concerning the S. A. L. Free Travelling Library System, I give you the desired information with pleasure. The system is under the auspices and operated by the S. A. L. R. R. The libraries containing the books and all mail matter relative to this work are delivered free to all points along its lines. Mrs. E. G. McCabe, 527 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, is coöperating with me.

I am heartily in favor of the proposed Library Post bill. The work of the Travelling Library would be very much forwarded by a library post, at one cent per pound rate, for then every farmer's family would have easy access to the library located at their nearest town and station, by means of their rural post office.

Very truly yours,

MRS. EUGENE BARNARD HEARD,

General Superintendent S. A. L. R. R. Free Travelling Library System.

Miss Annie Wallace, Carnegie Library, Atlanta, Ga.:

"I think the plan an excellent one and will be glad to coöperate and to interest our representatives at Washington in the subject."

Hon. B. R. Tillman, United States Senator, Trenton, S. C.:

"It is certainly very desirable to have good books placed within easy reach of as many people as possible.

"I think I would support such a provision in the post office appropriation."

G. T. Winston, President of University of Texas, Austin, Texas:

"I am heartily in sympathy with the movement to carry public and incorporated libraries to the people through the agency of the mails, and to admit books for this purpose as second-class mail matter."

William Beer, Public Library, New Orleans, La.:

"I am heartily in sympathy with the movement. . . . To the city circulating library I intend shortly proposing to allow all persons in the state the privilege of drawing books on payment of \$3 per year."

THE WEST.

Miss E. M. McLoney, Public Library, Des Moines, Ia.:

"The practical advantages to the public, particularly in localities remote from business or literary centres, would be very great. I shall be glad to coöperate."

F. M. Crunden, Public Library, St. Louis, Mo.:

"I take pleasure in indorsing these views on the admission of public and incorporated libraries as second-class mail matter.

"A wise public policy certainly gives more warrant to the coöperation of the post office with the public library in distributing among the people the works of the best authors, than to the same coöperation with the publishers of cheap 'libraries,' which often consist of trash and sometimes harmful publications."

Horace Kephart, Mercantile Library, St. Louis, Mo.:

"I will gladly coöperate. . . . Our library sends books to out-of-town members, but the present mail rate is almost prohibitive."

W. S. Chaplin, Chancellor, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.:

"I have no doubt that the books when distributed from libraries would have a comparatively short haul. The libraries would naturally limit the region in which they would be willing to distribute books. Undoubtedly the very place where the use of library books would be of most value is where it is now most difficult to get them, that is, at the small post offices, the four corners and such out of the way places as have a very small population, which is generally not much given to reading books."

"On the whole, I think that something might be done in this way, especially in our western communities where libraries are few and distances great."

Miss M. E. Ahern, editor of *Public Libraries*, Chicago, Ill.:

"I cordially indorse the idea of a movement to obtain from the postal authorities a lower and more equitable rate for the transportation of books between libraries."

Mrs. Z. A. Dixson, Library of University of Chicago:

"This seems to me a most excellent plan and one which would greatly aid the dissemination of good literature. I am most heartily in favor of such a measure."

J. K. Hosmer, Public Library, Minneapolis, Minn.:

"I am in favor of cheap postage for library books."

Pres. J. B. Angell, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.:

"The plan suggested for securing a more general circulation of books in public libraries seems to me well conceived."

Robinson Locke, *Toledo Blade*, Toledo, Ohio:

"I would like to do something to further this movement and will be glad to offer the columns of *The Blade* for that purpose. I am a trustee of the Toledo Public Library and ex-president of the Ohio Library Association. We are working hard here in Ohio to extend the library system into every nook and corner of the state."

IN

President J. B. Ang

To Friends of a Library

Marked copies of *The People*, with favorable consideration and coöperative The Massachusetts Teachers' Association as strongly in favor of such position.

Will you kindly aid in any of the following:

1. Write to your Washington delegate
2. Secure favorable resolutions from
3. Is your local library working considering a plan for the delivery of books which (as a maximum offer) amount library to reader and back for three books at minimum rates will be welcomed.
4. Will you favor us by securing
5. Among the subscribers are the

Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst, Berkeley, Cal.
J. C. Rowell, University of California
Miss S. A. Bond, Boston, Mass.

... COUNCIL ...



Alabama.			
Alaska Territory.	Hon. Sheldon Jackson, Sitka, Alaska.	Nebraska.	Miss C. E. Dennis, Lincoln Neb.
Arizona Territory.		Nevada.	
Arkansas.		New Hampshire.	Miss F. E. Whitcher, Manchester, N. H.
California.		New Jersey.	V. L. Collins, Princeton University.
Colorado.		New Mexico Ter.	
Connecticut.	Miss C. M. Hewins, Hartford, Conn.	New York.	G. F. Bowerman, N. Y. Tribune.
Delaware.			J. H. Canfield, Columbia University.
Dist. of Columbia	Pres. J. E. Rankin, Howard University.		R. Heber Newton, D. D., New York City.
Florida.			Mrs. M. E. Craigie, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Georgia.	Prof. J. H. T. McPherson, Univ. of Georgia.	North Carolina.	Hon. M. D. Sherrill, Raleigh, N. C.
Idaho.		North Dakota.	
Illinois.	Miss M. E. Ahern, Chicago, Ill.	Ohio.	
Indian Territory.		Oklahoma Ter.	
Indiana.		Oregon.	
Iowa.	Prof. G. E. MacLean, University of Iowa,	Pennsylvania.	Morris Jastrow, Jr., University of Pennsylvania.
	Hon. Henry Sabin, Des Moines, Iowa.		B. L. Whitman, D.D., Philadelphia.
Kansas.	John MacDonald, Topeka, Kan.	Rhode Island.	
Kentucky.	W. N. Snead, Louisville, Ky.	South Carolina.	
Louisiana.		South Dakota.	
Maine.		Tennessee.	
Maryland.		Texas.	
Massachusetts.	E. H. Clement, Boston, Mass.	Utah.	
	H. C. Wellman, Brookline, Mass.	Vermont.	
Michigan.		Virginia.	
Minnesota.	Prof. D. L. Kiehle, University of Minnesota.	Washington.	
Mississippi.		West Virginia.	
Missouri.		Wisconsin.	R. G. Thwaites, Madison, Wis.
Montana.	Mrs. L. E. Howey, Helena, Montana.	Wyoming.	J. G. Gregory, Milwaukee, Wis.

Mrs. M. P. Gould, Berea College Library, Berea, Ky.:

"Your circular concerning a cheap library post has just now come to hand. Though doubtless too late, I will still say what a benefit the post would be to us, especially for our travelling libraries. I shall be glad to do anything I can to help it on."

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

WINONA, MINN., August 9, 1900.

Dear Sir: Replying to your favor of August 2. . . . The matter of the cheap library post was referred to the national executive committee with authority to take such action in the case as they deemed advisable. . . . Until that time I can only now say to you that the project to which you refer was favorably regarded by the Board of Directors at the Charleston meeting, and no objections whatever were offered to indorsing this movement. On the contrary, many expressions favorable thereto were made. I have no doubt that favorable action in some form will be taken by the executive committee. . . .

I am sincerely yours,

IRWIN SHEPARD, *Secretary.*

To Secretary Library Post.

THE FAR WEST.

J. F. Davies, Public Library, Butte City, Mon.:

"I shall be glad to coöperate as I may be able in the object."

Pres. E. B. Andrews, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb.:

"I am much impressed with the fertility of the library idea, and hope you will push it into operation. Shall be glad to have any reports of its operation or attempts to work it."

G. E. Ross-Lewin, P. M., Denver, Col.:

"In my opinion the privilege of mailing second-class matter should be given to libraries and they should be given the same rates and advantages as are given publishers."

Hon. Philip Lawrence, Assistant Secretary of State, Pierre, So. Dak.:

"There is no appropriation whatever for the care of the State Library, and while we are in sympathy with the movement we are unable to take any part."

E. A. Carleton, State Supt. of Public Instruction, Helena, Mon.:

"I shall be pleased to write our delegation in behalf of this bill."

Mrs. L. E. Howey, State Library, Helena, Mon.:

"I think it an excellent plan. Our two departments of the State Library would be of much value if thus circulated. The historical department has 12,000 volumes and 10,000 pamphlets and the law department as many more."

THE PACIFIC STATES.

J. C. Rowell, Library, University of California, Berkeley, Cal.:

"There is no doubt as to the propriety and public advantage of granting to libraries a second-class postage rate in mailing books to patrons or other citizens. You can depend on my hearty coöperation. It is simply a matter of legislation, urged by public sentiment and popular demand."

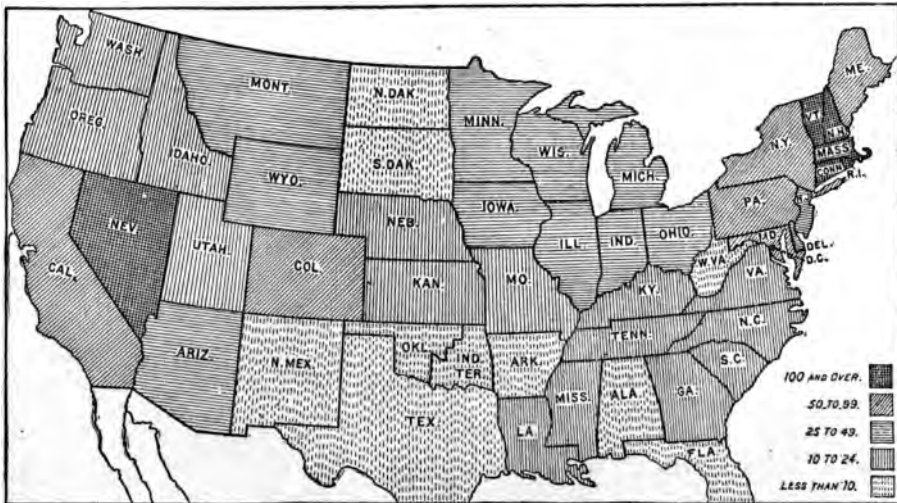
"We approve any movement in favor of amending the postal laws for this specific purpose."

W. A. Strong, mayor of Portland, Oregon:

"I trust efforts in this line will be successful."

T. R. Rogers, governor of Washington, Olympia, Wash.:

"If the right kind of books can be circulated . . . I believe great good would be done. . . . If these things were kept in view (good books) I could heartily indorse the circulation of books by mail."



LIBRARY MAP OF THE UNITED STATES.
(Showing number of volumes to each 100 population in 1896.)

FOREIGN.

Some foreign letters follow.

Sir J. G. Bourinot, honorable secretary of Royal Society of Canada, Ottawa, Canada:

"I recognize the remarkable influence the plan must have in the way of educating a large mass of the people who otherwise could not have easy access to books. I hope it will have adequate support as the plan becomes generally known."

The Swiss Postal Department reports in its official statement:

"As subscription paper (from libraries, etc.). These mailing matters (pack-

ages or paper cases) are admissible up to the weight of two kilograms (about four pounds) and are charged with a postal rate of fifteen centimes (about three cents) for both ways, which must be prepaid by the sender. This way of sending printed matter is used frequently by libraries and booksellers for setting books into circulation and by so-called reading circles. It favors the exchange of books and periodicals from libraries, etc., and principally with subscribers in the suburbs."

Mr. G. de Weckherlin, minister of the Netherlands, writes:

"In the Netherlands books may go from libraries of any kind by mail at book or parcel rates, and the postman delivers the printed matter or parcel (without extra charge) at the door of the addressee, even in the most remote rural parts of the kingdom. The charges for parcels are low. The government's parcel post and the delivery system seem to give sufficient facilities."

COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIES.

Attention has been called to the fact that a library post would work advantageously for college, university and professional libraries. The librarians of California and Columbia universities have referred to intercollege library loans, the law library of Montana and the General Theological Library of Boston have shown how their usefulness would be greatly promoted by such a post. These serve as illustrations of conditions widely prevalent where not only popular collections may be made more useful but libraries of scholars, devoted to higher or professional learning, may the better serve the ends for which they have been founded.

THE BLIND AT A POSTAL DISADVANTAGE.

F. A. Hill, state secretary of education, Boston, Mass., in his recent special report on the "Instruction of Adult Blind," says:

"Blind people have to pay their own postage on books. This is a very heavy burden on account of the bulk of the books. In 1898 the Parliament of Canada authorized the transmission of raised print books for the blind free of cost through the mails. The postage both ways, for instance, on a Braille edition of the Bible in twenty-five volumes used to be nine dollars and sixty cents, and on other books in the same proportion—a burden that was almost prohibitive. That is to say, blind people who are more dependent on reading than any other class, who have less facilities for reading than any other class, who are compelled more than any other class to rely on distant libraries and the use of the mails for reading matter, are obliged to pay for the transmission through the mails of any printed work several hundred per cent more than any other class, though far less able than any other to do so. This comes about, indeed, from their infirmity and the coarse printing necessary to meet it; but it is a situation, none the less, that the government might properly relieve. The trustees of the Perkins Institution have expressed an earnest hope that such relief may be granted."

Important letters from Mr. Michael Anagnos of Perkins Institution for the Blind, South Boston, Mass., Mr. John Thomson, Free Library, Philadelphia,

and others were received and submitted at Washington. Mr. Anagnos's letter follows:

PERKINS INSTITUTION AND MASS. SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND,
SOUTH BOSTON, MASS.

I am much interested in the library post effort and I earnestly hope that some clause may be added which will benefit the blind in this respect. They, even more than others, need encouragement in reading. It is our custom to lend books from our library, free of charge save for that of transportation,



TWO PUPILS OF PERKINS INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, BOSTON, MASS.

and this is often an insuperable obstacle. Furthermore donations of books in raised print have been made to many public libraries which would become important points of distribution if the cost of postage did not stand in the way. In Canada they are far ahead of us in this respect for they have adopted free transportation for books for the blind. Even if we cannot reach that point, I hope that, at least, cheaper rates may prevail and that, in any consideration of the matter, the blind and their needs may not be overlooked.

M. ANAGNOS.

A hearing on the Library Post bill was given at Washington on February 27, 1900. The following were at the hearing: A. H. Chase, State Librarian and Secretary of Library Commission of New Hampshire; Rev. G. A. Jackson, General Theological Library of Boston; W. T. Peeples, Mercantile Library, New York; P. R. Uhler, Peabody Institute Library, Baltimore, Md.; S. M. Newman, D. D., Washington, D. C.; Hon. G. P. Lawrence, M. C. Mr. Chase is also chairman of the American Library Association committee on cheap book post. Briefs and letters from persons unable to attend, and resolutions ~~from~~ *from educational, library and other bodies and editorials* were also submitted.

An account of the hearing was given in current daily papers. The *Boston Transcript*, for example, gave a first page report.

The following points were suggested by members of the Postal Committee at the hearing:

1. It was stated that a library post would make county libraries possible in many states where the county unit is prominent. The question of increased taxation in this connection was raised by a southern member. It was replied that such taxation would be lowered to a minimum and the usefulness of central libraries lifted to a maximum. Under these conditions private wealth would do much for libraries, as has frequently been the case in New England and elsewhere. Besides such a post would open many existing libraries to the people at the cost of users, no tax whatever, as in cases noted elsewhere.

2. Question of wear and tear of books raised. This was thought irrelevant. Books are now safely transported by mail to literary editors and purchasers, etc.; they are easily protected by corner pieces and wrappers; Swiss post uses cases.

3. Objected that cent rate is not economic. (a) Free county post service, now granted to certain publications, is not profitable in a pecuniary way, but evidently Congress considered the public advantage arising from diffused intelligence in this case. Such a consideration, within limits, is part of the settled postal policy. The library post, however, does not ask free service although some leading citizens think libraries of the people entitled to such service equally with much matter now so carried. The economic nature of the cent rate for libraries seems an open question. Members of the Postal Committee claimed a cent rate was economic for thirty miles, doubtful for sixty miles and a loss for a longer distance. This view favors town, city and county libraries and, to some extent, other libraries, but stands in the way somewhat of state, college and society libraries. As to length of carriage, some authorities hold that element to be unimportant in mail carriage, believing the natural zone of library demand favorable to a uniform rate and unspecified distance. In the milk transportation case, 1895, (Orange County, N. Y., milk producers, etc.) G. R. Blanchard, former vice-president of the Erie Railroad, was asked: "If it is to the advantage of the railway companies and of the consumers of milk to have a uniform rate up to 330 miles, why not up to 1,000 miles?" Mr. Blanchard's reply was: "I know of no reason." (See *Cowles's Gen. and Passenger Post*, page 122.) On carriage of second-class matter for 4-10 cent per pound to all points west of Pennsylvania and east of Rocky Mountains, see report of New England Road, October, 1897, page 12. (*Cowles's Gen. and Passenger Post*, page 241.)

(b) In connection with the economic side, it is evident that two things demand attention, viz.: the limited natural zone of libraries and the fact that public wealth is wasted by obstacles to library work arising from present high and prohibitive mail rates on library books. A scientific working basis of relation between libraries and post office does not exist, and this non-relation wastes the wealth of the people who must meet both postal deficits and losses caused by obstructed library work maintained at public cost.

4. It was said the government had never interfered with delivery of mail pieces, except for first-class matter, and localities might do as they wished in library delivery work. Government has interfered in delivery of mail pieces by private parties in London, Edinburgh (see *Britannica on Post Office*) and New York. Let it be conceded it has been for first-class matter only. But who shall guarantee that, when a city or private company has perfected a local delivery or local library post, the government will not interfere? It has done so for one class of mail matter, it may do so for any class. Local library posts are needless, for the work belongs to the postal system; they can have no

guarantee of non-interference when established. Non-action on the part of the government to establish an effective library post seems, therefore, indefensible.

5. The question of uniform rate was raised. The classification of mail matter favors such uniformity for classes specified. Doubtless, letters may be handled for less than two cents in any urban district, as New York, New Orleans, San Francisco postal districts. But for adequate reasons, as it is believed, a uniform first-class rate has been fixed for the United States, and the extension of the same rate throughout the postal union has strong advocates. The costly first-class matter is thus partly carried by the profitable matter of that class, and the area of such mutual service is continually growing. It is also argued that the first and second class have mutual relations. To tamper with second or any lower class may affect the first class. Touch what seems unprofitable and you may touch also what is profitable. The postal system, in a word, is a system, an organism. There is a solidarity of its parts. With the elimination of what are clearly abuses of the postal system, the settled postal policy, as stated by the postmaster general, seems sound. The library post is believed to stand on economic ground, and to be in harmony with the settled postal policy of the United States.

6. A member of the committee expressed the opinion that a bill giving special rates for libraries for the blind had already been introduced. On inquiry among persons in Massachusetts interested in the blind and at Washington no trace of such a bill is found.

No action on the bill was taken by the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads aside from this hearing.

IS ONE CENT RATE ECONOMIC FOR LIBRARY BOOKS?

1. No attempt has been made to abolish the cent rate except for abuses and long distance, as one thousand miles.

2. The postal deficit is attributed not to cent rates, but variously to the abuse of second-class matter, overuse of free system or high charges of railroads.

3. Library books cost less than newspapers, because the minimum charge for the library book is for one pound, whereas newspapers may require a number of mail pieces to different addresses for one pound.

4. At the Washington hearing it was conceded that the cent rate was economic for thirty miles and doubtful for sixty miles.

5. The natural carriage for library books involves a short radius and (while postal students differ in opinion as to the bearing of length of carriage on cost) the postal committee of Congress think short carriage lessens the cost.

6. The postal experience of other countries in book and parcel posts seems favorable to a much reduced rate for a library post.

7. The experience of local transportation people consulted shows that such transportation may be at a very low cost.

8. The express companies carry for cent rate second-class matter in a large area, as New England and Middle States, wherever they have offices. Their minimum charge is five cents, but they call for and receipt for packages and deliver to address. A similar library area seems equally practicable for the postal system. If Congress classifies library books as second-class matter, it is probable that express companies will give to libraries the same favorable rate.

9. The loss to students, readers and public wealth invested in libraries and postal system, arising from abridged circulation of books, calls for better *relation* between library and postal systems.

10. The larger economics involved in an effective library system and library post make the coöperation of library and postal systems at minimum rates imperative.

Mr. H. N. Wheeler, representative of Houghton, Mifflin & Co. of Boston, New York and Chicago, said before the House Committee on Post Office and Post Roads, February 13, 1900:

"I must leave to others the arguments of railroad experts which, according to Senator Marion Butler (see *Congressional Record* for February 20, 1899), tell you that the United States government is paying forty dollars a ton per hundred miles for carrying mail matter, while first-class passengers pay twenty dollars a ton, express companies, four dollars a ton, and shippers of freight, eighty-two cents a ton. They tell you also that during the past twelve years no reduction of rates to the government has taken place, although freight rates to individuals have been steadily lowered. They tell you that the average rate paid by the government to the railroads for an average haul is six and fifty-eight hundredths cents per pound, and that the average rate paid by the express companies is six mills a pound, which appears to show that the pound rate on second-class matter is not so low as the rate paid by the express companies."

Mr. Wheeler, in address before the United States Senate committee on January 16, 1897:

"The circulation of second-class matter carries with it much business that is profitable to the Post Office Department. . . . It has been claimed that the distribution of second-class matter has done more than anything else in this and other ways to build up paying post offices all over the land."

"The postal service," says Auditor Castle, "is the greatest business institution in the world. In the last hundred years while the population of this country has increased at the ratio of twenty-five to one, the post office business has increased at the ratio of 1000 to 1." He states that the deficit for 1899 was \$6,000,000, while for 1898 it was \$10,000,000. The total revenue in 1899 was \$95,021,348. He attributes the deficit to the free mail matter.

The Postmaster-General's last report calls attention to the fact that the postal system carries free the matter of all the departments of government, and emphasizes the abuses of second-class matter. At the same time he refers with approval to "the deliberate and settled public policy which encourages the dissemination of public intelligence and favors the promotion of enlightening influences." He also says, "If there is to be a favored class, let it embrace the whole people." The legitimate use of second-class matter is not here objected to.

Congressman Moody of Massachusetts, of the Joint Postal Commission which has recently reported, says, "We found that forty-eight per cent of the matter carried by the railroad for the post office was in equipment, which of course pays just as much a pound as the mail itself.

"As a result of this discovery, the department is making lighter equipment a study—lighter pouches in particular—and may be able to reduce this element of cost considerably, perhaps one-half. Another new economy is the returning of empty mail sacks to such cities as Augusta, where *Comfort* is published by freight in carload lots. Thousands of sacks of mail go out from that city, and the pouches have heretofore gone back empty, but by regular mails."

MR. LOUD'S NEW BILL.

This bill, presented and defeated in the last session of Congress, had a provision of one thousand miles for second-class matter at one cent a pound and beyond one thousand miles at two cents a pound. The intent of said bill was to correct second-class abuses and postal deficit. The framer of the bill seems to be of the opinion that a thousand miles radius would make the postal system more economic.

FREE MATTER, ETC.

The amount of free matter at the special weighings for a given period at the Boston Post Office reached between one-eleventh and one-twelfth of whole weight; the deficit for the year equalled one-sixteenth of whole postal expense.

REPORT OF WEIGHING, OCTOBER 3 TO NOVEMBER 6, 1899, BOSTON POST OFFICE.

Total Weight by Classes.			Free Matter.		
	Lbs.	Ozs.		Lbs.	Ozs.
1st Class Matter	334,071	7	County Free Matter	140	15
2d Class Matter	2,065,341	15	Government Free Matter	345,312	12
3d and 4th Class Matter	560,831	9			
Government Free Matter	345,312	12		345,453	11
Equipment (pouches, sacks, etc.)	747,974	7			
Total	4,053,532	2	Free matter in above between 1-11 and 1-12 of whole. Postal deficit about 1-16. The postal department has ordered greater economy in equipment.		

NEWSPAPERS DISTRIBUTED AND SOLD. TELEGRAMS.

It is well known that daily newspapers are circulated and sold on a margin of one cent or less and telegrams are delivered at a very low figure by messengers.

BOOKLOVERS' LIBRARY.

The Booklovers' Library (1323 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.,) has centres at Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Chicago, etc., delivers within a certain radius a maximum of three books per week (one offer) or one hundred and fifty-six per year, calls for the same, supplies book bulletin for ten dollars per year or three and one-quarter cents per volume. Government postage on said books alone would be at least \$24.96.

UNBUSINESSLIKE.

To urge that improvements and readjustments in the postal system be not made or attempted until the deficit is removed is unbusinesslike. An economic library post pays for itself and may be profitable. A wise business policy aims to meet the demands of the business on a sound basis. It does not refuse to open a needed, self-paying or profitable area because another area is conducted at a loss.

CARRIAGE OF LIBRARY BOOKS.

United States, 8 cents per pound; limit, 4 pounds.	8 lbs., 20 cts.; 9 lbs., 22 cts.; 10 lbs., 24 cts.; 11 lbs., 24 cts.
Canada, 4 cents per pound.	Switzerland, 4 lbs., 3 cts. (to reader and back).
Great Britain (Domestic), 1 lb., 6 cts.; 2 lbs., 8 cts.; 3 lbs., 10 cts.; 4 lbs., 12 cts.; 5 lbs., 14 cts.; 6 lbs., 16 cts.; 7 lbs., 18 cts;	Germany (see following).

GERMAN PARCEL POSTAGE.

Pfennig equals $\frac{1}{4}$ cent.

Distance.	Minimum rates.
Up to 5 miles (geographical miles)	20 pfennig (5 cts.)
Over 5 to 15 miles	30 pfennig (7.5 cts.)
Over 15 to 25 miles	40 pfennig (10 cts.)
Over 25 to 50 miles	50 pfennig (12.5 cts.)
Over 50 to any distance	60 pfennig (15 cts.)

REGULAR RATES.

	Per pound.
Up to 5 miles	2-10 pfennig
Over 5 to 10 miles	4-10 pfennig
Over 10 to 15 miles	6-10 pfennig
Over 15 to 20 miles	8-10 pfennig
Over 20 to 25 miles	10-10 pfennig
Over 25 to 30 miles	10 pfennig (2.5 cts.)
Over 30 to 40 miles	12 pfennig (3 cts.)
Over 40 to 50 miles	14 pfennig (3.5 cts.)
Over 50 to 60 miles	16 pfennig (4 cts.)
Over 60 to 70 miles	18 pfennig (4.5 cts.)
Over 70 to 90 miles	20 pfennig (5 cts.)
Over 90 to 100 miles	22 pfennig (5.5 cts.)
Over 100 to 120 miles	24 pfennig (6 cts.)
Over 120 to 140 miles	26 pfennig (6.5 cts.)
Over 140 to 160 miles	28 pfennig (7 cts.)
Over 160 to 180 miles	30 pfennig (7.5 cts.)
Fractions of a pound to be charged as one full pound.	
No limit to weight.	

IRRELEVANT MATTERS.

A few correspondents while standing in a friendly attitude to this movement have failed to see its aim clearly. A city librarian, for example, says it is illegal to send books by mail out of city to non-residents or, at least, non-taxpayers of the city which supports the library. This is doubtless a correct view but it touches library support and privilege, not a library post. Such a post is desirable in cities, for it would bring about house-to-house delivery and reach taxpayers temporarily absent from the city during the summer or at other seasons, who may wish to use city library privileges. Others urge the nationalization of railroads, free rural delivery, parcel post, or a private instead of a government post, one cent letter postage, etc. The unwisdom of the friends of a library post mixing the movement with these larger and in some cases debatable questions is obvious. An equitable library post will adjust itself to the present postal system or to any future postal administration which the civic wisdom of the country may establish. One correspondent regards it as a possible interference with local self-government. It may be said in reply that the use of the postal system by libraries, whether town, city, state, college or non-local, is not compulsory but optional. Some express fears of "fake" libraries. A reference to the bill will answer such fears. One thinks central libraries may have to do more than their share of library work, another that it would work unfavorably to small local libraries. It is replied that the central library need not use the library post unless on a basis satisfactory to itself, and that the distribution of good books has proven favorable to personal, home and local libraries. A few have referred to the public library as a beneficiary system; at one time the beneficiary or charity idea was attached to free public education but the argument for the free school and library is now believed on the ground of sound public policy and necessity.

INTERESTING SOUTHERN LIBRARY WORK.

Among the most noteworthy library enterprises in the United States is that of the Seaboard Air Line Railway which has a complete system of free travelling libraries and sends the books and all mail matter relative thereto to rural stations along its route without any cost whatever to the people. Any details respecting this important work may be obtained from Mrs. E. B. Heard, "Rose Hill," Middleton, Ga.; Mrs. E. G. McCabe, 527 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Ga., or J. T. Patrick, Industrial Agent, S. A. L. Railway, Pinebluff, N. C.

This railroad has, it seems, undertaken this and other important educational enterprises with a view to the better development of the large area of country it serves as promotive of the interest of the railroad itself.



SEABOARD AIR LINE RAILWAY.

(To illustrate circulation of S. A. L. R. Travelling Libraries.)

The Seaboard Air Line Railway owns two thousand five hundred and forty-two miles of track, running from Richmond, Va., to Atlanta, Ga., and Tampa, Fla., reaching almost every important city, including the capitals of the six states which it intersects. Through trains are operating daily between New York and the South via the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Seaboard Air Line. This is the only system whose tracks extend all the way from Richmond to Jacksonville and Tampa, and is now the shortest route by nearly one hundred miles between the North and Florida and Havana.

Will the Seaboard Air Line Railway carry books at cent rates?

The following letter has been received from John T. Patrick, chief industrial agent of said road:

PINEBLUFF, N. C., November 14, 1900.

In regard to our company carrying books at the rate of one cent per pound would be a matter that our freight department would have to take under consideration. The best plan would be to outline your work to Mr. E. St. John, vice-president and general manager, who is interested in all subjects of this kind. His address is Portsmouth, Va. I will be glad to have a conference with

you some time when I am in Boston, and will notify you at a later date when I am in the city.

JNO. T. PATRICK.

THE BERMUDA LIBRARY HAS FREE POSTAGE.

The Honorary Secretary of the Bermuda Library, Hamilton, Bermuda, writes, citing the postal law as follows:

"Books or book packets sent to or from the Bermuda Library and posted in accordance with the regulations as to book packets shall be forwarded and delivered by inland post free of postage." This act has been in operation since 1879.

CHAPEL CARS HAVE FREE RAILROAD SERVICE.

Six chapel cars belonging to one of the religious denominations are hauled free over forty-two railway systems in the following parts of the United States: Michigan, Louisiana, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma, the Northwest and Pacific Coast. In some cases schools for various kinds of instruction are carried by rail in the interest of railroads or other parties. The church, hotel, school, laboratory, etc., on wheels are familiar facts in connection with railroads. The library on wheels seems equally practicable provided the general government, state groups, or other strong agencies take the work in hand.

THE SOMERVILLE, MASS., PUBLIC LIBRARY AND TWO-CENT HOUSE-TO-HOUSE DELIVERY OF BOOKS.

A plan to deliver library books within the limits of the city of Somerville, Mass., at two cents per volume for round trip, has been under the consideration of the librarian and trustees of the Public Library. A business man of standing has offered to handle library books by wagon delivery at the above-named rates and other offers have been submitted or discussed. Somerville has an area of 4.22 square miles; greatest length, 3.2 miles; greatest width, 2.1 miles; population (estimated, 1900), 62,000; tax valuation (May 1, 1900), \$52,-



PUBLIC LIBRARY, ENGLISH AND LATIN HIGH SCHOOLS, SOMERVILLE, MASS.

578,200; volumes in library (January 1, 1901), 48,072. The public library has the following valuation: building, \$30,967.59; land (estimate), \$36,400; contents, \$25,000; new addition to building, \$18,000; total, \$73,967.58; total annual expense, \$13,787.02; librarian and assistants, 15; annual circulation, 270,133. Action by an important library to secure house-to-house delivery at a low, economic rate will have a wide influence. Various librarians in eastern Massachusetts and elsewhere are maturing similar plans.

OLD STAGECOACH LINES.

For many years two great lines of coaches ran between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, each coach with four horses. Starting daily they covered the



OLD STAGE DAYS — UP GRADE, BAD ROAD, BEHIND TIME.

three hundred and fifty odd miles in about three days if roads were in good condition but usually it took longer. Change of horses was made every twelve miles. A through ticket cost from \$14 to \$20.



ACROSS THE CONTINENT,

1849.



ACROSS THE CONTINENT TO-DAY,
MAIL EXPRESS.

Mr. S. W. Roberts, in an address before the Penn. Historical Society, said:

"On the fourteenth of February, 1836, I left Philadelphia at five P. M. and was fourteen hours going to New York with the Great Southern Mail, although the sleighing was good. We rode in an open sled, or box on runners, and the four passengers sat on the mail bags. The fare was six dollars. We rode fourteen miles from Elizabethtown to Jersey City by rail."



MAIL TO EUROPE. ATLANTIC MAIL STEAMSHIP.

Thurlow Weed said: "Those who step into a railway car at Albany at seven A. M. and step out to get their dinner at two P. M. at Buffalo, will find it difficult to believe that within the memory of by no means 'the oldest inhabitant' it required, at muggy seasons of the year, seven nights and six days of constant travelling in stages to accomplish the same journey, and yet that was my own experience in April, 1824."

MAIL CONTRASTS AND RESOURCES.

General as well as mail transportation has been much improved as to speed, ease, safety and vast amount of passenger and freight traffic. The slow stage, the canal service, mail coach, postboy, sailing vessel have given place to the



MAIL TO ASIA. PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP.

steam car, steamship, electric car, automobile. Important changes have been brought about; cheaper, quicker, and better service has been secured; new facilities and possibilities opened to society. The public library in this country has not been benefited by this progress to the extent that is to-day possible.



ELECTRIC MAIL CAR.

LIBRARY DISTRICTS.

If Congress does not grant unlimited or natural zone carriage to libraries at cent rate it may be possible to divide the United States into three library districts as follows at cent rate and beyond said limits two cent rate:

I. All east of Mississippi River, including Porto Rico and excluding Louisiana and Minnesota.

II. All west of I and east of 109 degrees meridian, including Wyoming and Montana.

III. All west of II and including Alaska, Hawaii and Philippine Islands.

Such districts, except III, furnish about one thousand mile radius used in the original draft of the new Loud bill to lessen and correct the postal deficit. Each district also includes one or more cities of one-quarter of a million population and upwards, giving important library centres.

Another suggestion favored the cent rate for library areas equal to the state of Texas, the larger states or state groups like New England.



LIBRARY DISTRICT MAP.

(If the United States and outlying territory were districted as per plan suggested.)



Still another favored carriage of books between libraries at the cent rate. The effort to secure an adequate library post will be continued. One or two other bills with minor differences may also be presented to Congress.

An auxiliary Canadian Postal Committee and Council have been formed to secure a more favorable library post in that country. The Canadian Committee and Council to date are as follows:

AUXILIARY CANADIAN COMMITTEE.

G. U. Hay, <i>Educational Review</i> , St. John, N. B.	W. D. MacIntyre, Inspector of Schools, St. Eleanor's, P. E. I.
A. H. Mackay, Supt. of Education, Halifax, N. S.	Hon. Boucher de la Bruere, Supt. Public Instruction, Quebec, P. Q.

AUXILIARY CANADIAN COUNCIL.

British Columbia.	housie College, Halifax, N. S.
Manitoba.	
New Brunswick. W. S. Carter, Inspector of Schools, St. John, N. B.	Ontario. W. J. Robertson, Inspector of Schools, St. Catherine's, Ontario.
N. W. Territories.	P. E. Island. G. L. McCormac, Inspector of Schools, St. George's, P. E. I.
Nova Scotia. A. M. Kay, Supervisor of Schools, Halifax, N. S.	
J. G. MacGregor, Dal-	

It is probable that leading men interested in education, libraries and social progress in other countries may in due time coöperate with the American and Canadian committees to secure on a just and practical basis, a more uniform and serviceable library post within the Postal Union.

Public coöperation is solicited to advance this important cause.

• The following gave pecuniary aid to the library post movement during the past year (to May 10, 1900) in sums ranging from one dollar to fifty dollars. An account of all receipts and expenses to May 10, 1900, has been sent to all subscribers:

SUBSCRIBERS TO LIBRARY POST TO DATE.

- Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst, Berkeley, Cal.
 J. C. Rowell, University of California, Cal.
 Miss S. A. H. Bond, Boston, Mass.
 Boston Book Co., Boston, Mass.
 Otto Fleischner, Public Library, Boston, Mass.
 W. G. Forsyth, Boston, Mass.
 H. L. Higginson, Boston, Mass.
 Miss M. S. R. James, Boston, Mass.
 Library Bureau, Boston, Mass.
 Miss K. P. Loring, Anna Ticknor Library, Boston, Mass.
 Miss E. F. Mason, Boston, Mass.
 Mrs. W. B. Potter, Boston, Mass..
 E. L. Sprague, Boston, Mass.
 L. L. Ward, Public Library, Boston, Mass.
 J. L. Whitney, Public Library, Boston, Mass.
 Dr. H. D. Holton, Brattleboro, Vt.
 Brooklyn Library, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Brooklyn Library Assn., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Miss M. W. Plummer, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Miss E. E. Clarke, University of Vt., Burlington, Vt.
 Prof. N. S. Shaler, Lawrence Sci. School, Cambridge, Mass.
 Mrs. S. H. Swan, Cambridge, Mass.
 E. H. Johnson, D. D., Crozer Theo. Sem., Chester, Pa.
 Miss M. E. Ahern, Public Libraries, Chicago, Ill.
 C. E. Bolton, Cleveland, Ohio.
 State Library, Concord, N. H.
 G. E. Nutting, Public Library, Fitchburg, Mass.
 Miss A. G. Chandler, Town Library, Lancaster, Mass.
 F. H. Hedge, Public Library, Lawrence, Mass.
 Miss C. E. Dennis, Public Library, Lincoln, Neb.
 R. G. Thwaites, Pres. A. L. A., 1899, 1900, Madison, Wis.
 Ohio Library Assn., per Secretary, Mansfield, Ohio.
 J. Rufus Wales, Marlboro, Mass.
 R. B. Lawrence, Medford, Mass.
 J. G. Gregory, Milwaukee, Wis.
 Hon. M. S. Stone, State Secretary Education, Montpelier, Vt.
 Hon. Norman Fox, Morristown, N. J.
 Prof. D. N. Camp, New Britain, Conn.
 Henry Baldwin, Amer. History, New Haven, Conn.
 William Beer, Public Library, New Orleans, La.
 The Baker-Taylor Co., New York City.
 Hon. A. S. Hewitt, Cooper Union, New York City.
 Pres. Seth Low, Columbia University, New York City.
 Mercantile Library, New York City.
 R. Heber Newton, D. D., New York City.
 Miss C. P. Stokes, New York City.
 C. A. Cutter, Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass.
 E. S. Wilcox, Public Library, Peoria, Ill.
 Free Library, Philadelphia, Pa.
 V. Lansing Collins, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.
 E. C. Richardson, Princeton Univ., Princeton, N. J.
 Daniel Beckwith, Providence, R. I.
 J. L. Harrison, The Athenæum, Providence, R. I.
 Miss S. L. Bartlett, The Athenæum, St. Johnsbury, Vt.
 Pres. W. S. Chaplin, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.
 F. M. Crunden, Public Library, St. Louis, Mo.
 Hon. Sheldon Jackson, Alaska Div. Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C.

All checks payable to RAY GREENE HULING, TREASURER, Cambridge, Mass.

For information address W. SCOTT, Secretary, 10 Hollis Street, Cambridge, Mass., or any member of the committee or council. •

